Committee on the Judiciary 116th Congress **Resolution for Investigative Procedures** Offered by Chairman Jerrold Nadler

Whereas the Committee on the Judiciary beginning on 1 March 4, 2019 has issued multiple discovery requests to 2 individuals with potential information relevant to its 3 investigation "into the alleged obstruction of justice, public 4 corruption, and other abuses of power by President Trump, his 5 associates, and members of his Administration"; 6 Whereas Special Counsel Robert Mueller's Report released 7 on April 18, 2019 found that the Russian government interfered 8 in the 2016 election in "sweeping and systematic fashion," that 9 there were at least ten separate episodes of President Trump 10 using his official powers to thwart or attempt to thwart the 11 Special Counsel's investigation, and recognized "that a federal 12 criminal accusation against a sitting President 13 would...potentially preempt constitutional processes for 14 addressing presidential misconduct" and the Special Counsel 15 subsequently confirmed his Report's findings at a hearing before 16 the Committee on July 24, 2019; 17 Whereas, on May 8, 2019, the Committee recommended 18

the House of Representatives hold Attorney General William 19 Barr in contempt of Congress for refusing to comply with a duly 20 authorized subpoena issued in connection with the Committee's 21 investigation to determine "whether any of the conduct 22 described in the Special Counsel's Report warrants the 23 Committee in taking any further steps under Congress' Article I 24

powers. That includes whether to approve articles of impeachment with respect to the President or any other Administration official, as well as the consideration of other steps such as censure or issuing criminal, civil or administrative referrals":

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

Whereas, in passing H. Res. 430 on June 11, 2019, which among other things provides that the chair of each standing and permanent select committee, when authorized by the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group, retains the ability to initiate or intervene in any judicial proceeding before a Federal court on behalf of such committee, the House of Representatives affirmed that "in connection with any judicial proceeding...the chair of any standing or permanent select committee exercising authority thereunder has any and all necessary authority under Article I of the Constitution," and the accompanying Committee on Rules report stated that "[a]n example of a Committee being able to use 'all necessary authority under Article I of the Constitution' is illustrated by the Judiciary Committee's contempt report which explained the purposes of its investigation...includes whether to recommend 'articles of impeachment with respect to the President...";

Whereas H. Res. 430 authorized the Committee to petition a court for the disclosure of information related to its subpoena for the unredacted version of the Special Counsel's Report and related materials "pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6(e), including Rule 6(e)(3)(E) (providing that the court may authorize disclosure of a grand-jury matter 'preliminarily to * * * a judicial proceeding')";

Whereas on July 10, 2019 the Committee authorized the issuance of subpoenas based upon a memorandum explaining

that "[t]he Committee seeks grand jury information and intends to conduct hearings with Mr. McGahn and other critical witnesses testifying to determine whether the Committee should recommend articles of impeachment against the President";

Whereas the Committee has held a series of hearings to aid Members in evaluating the seriousness and constitutional significance of the President's alleged misconduct as outlined in the Special Counsel's Report, including a hearing on July 12, 2019, where Chairman Nadler stated that "[w]ith regard to the Committee's responsibility to determine whether to recommend articles of impeachment against the President, articles of impeachment are under consideration as part of the Committee's investigation, although no final determination has been made";

Whereas, on July 26, 2019, the Committee filed an application with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia seeking an order authorizing the release of certain grand jury materials to the Committee related to the Special Counsel's Report to obtain "access to all the relevant facts and consider whether to exercise its full Article I powers, including a constitutional power of the utmost gravity—approval of articles of impeachment," and the Committee filed a lawsuit on August 7, 2019 seeking to enforce its subpoena for former White House Counsel Donald F. McGahn, II, a key witness to President Trump's misconduct, to aid in assessing "whether to exercise its Article I power to recommend articles of impeachment against the President";

Whereas on July 26, 2019 Chairman Nadler issued procedures governing Member access to grand jury information that may be obtained pursuant to the above described application with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia;

Whereas in an August 22, 2019 letter requesting the chairs of certain other committees to share information they have obtained over the course of their oversight investigations, Chairman Nadler noted "the Judiciary Committee's authority and intent to conduct an investigation to determine whether to recommend articles of impeachment." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Committee on the Judiciary states the following procedures apply to the presentation of information in connection with the Committee's investigation to determine whether to recommend articles of impeachment with respect to President Donald J. Trump, subject to modification by the Committee as it deems proper as the investigation proceeds.

- 1. The Chairman may designate a full committee or subcommittee hearing as being for the purpose of the presentation of information in connection with the Committee's investigation to determine whether to recommend articles of impeachment with respect to President Donald J. Trump.
- 2. If a witness is called to testify before the Committee at a hearing designated under paragraph 1, Committee staff as designated by the Chair and Ranking Member are permitted to question a witness for an additional hour equally divided between the Majority and Minority.
- 3. Information obtained pursuant to a letter request, subpoena, deposition, transcribed interview, or interrogatory pertaining to the Committee's investigation to determine

whether to recommend articles of impeachment with 111 respect to President Donald J. Trump, as so designated by 112 the Chairman, shall be deemed received in executive 113 session unless and until otherwise determined by the 114 Chairman, after consultation with the Ranking Member. 115 Grand jury information obtained by the Committee shall be 116 deemed received in executive session pursuant to the 117 procedures issued by Chairman Nadler on July 26, 2019. 118 The Chairman, after consultation with the Ranking 119 Member, is authorized to determine whether other material 120 received by the Committee shall be deemed executive 121 session material. The Chairman, after consultation with the 122 Ranking Member, may issue additional procedures 123 governing access by other Non-Committee Members to 124 executive session materials, consistent with clause 2 (e)(2) 125 of House Rule XI. 126

4. The President's counsel may respond in writing to information and testimony presented to the Committee in open session. The Chairman, after consultation with the Ranking Member, may invite the President's counsel to review and respond in writing to executive session materials.

127

128

129

130

131

132